

Meeting with African American Chamber of Commerce
October 23, 2018

Regional Administrator Talking Points

- The Navy is the lead on the cleanup at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Superfund Site. For the entire site, over the past decades, EPA and State of California agencies have been overseeing the Navy's radiological work to ensure the safety of the surrounding community.
- With recent developments, we know that we need to rebuild credibility. During a meeting with Nancy Pelosi on July 31, we committed to attending the Mayor's Hunters Point Shipyard Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. My staff attended the on August 27 and September 24 meetings and will be at the next CAC meeting on November 7. We have also participated in Hearings called by Malia Cohen, President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, on May 14 and October 15.
- In addition, I fully support the work of the California Department of Public Health, a co-regulator for the site. We appreciate their expertise and the extensive work they've done scanning Parcel A-1. To date, they have scanned more than 97% of the accessible areas of that parcel. The only non-naturally occurring anomaly they found was one radium deck marker. During the scanning process, they have done extensive public outreach. My understanding is that they will soon be scanning Parcel A-2.

Additional Talking Points

- Public concern is important to us. As such, this site is a high priority to EPA Region 9. We have assembled a team of national experts on radiological clean-up to advise us and provide technical expertise.
- Long-term radiological monitoring by various parties of dust, groundwater, ground surfaces, and fence lines have shown no exceedances of health-based standards, and third-party contractors routinely conduct in-person observations of current radiological cleanup work.
- In response to Tetra Tech falsifying data, EPA, along with the State and the Navy, has been actively involved in the development of new work plans designed to address the uncertainty that now surrounds the site and to reassure the residents of their safety. We have stepped up our oversight activities at the site, and we plan to have staff on site during the planned retesting. We will also independently take and analyze samples alongside the Navy to ensure the integrity of the data and restore public confidence in the clean-up.

- We are aware of the recent claims of Daniel Hirsch and Committee to Bridge the Gap, and the extensive press coverage they have received. We are in the process of evaluating the claims. EPA's focus right now is on working with the Navy, and other regulatory agencies, to create a testing plan for Parcel G, which includes a scan of all accessible areas of Parcel G. As we move forward, EPA, along with the other regulatory agencies, will assess proposed retesting at other parcels.
- I understand this community has had a cloud of uncertainty hanging over its head for far too long. We all want the retesting to start as soon as possible. Only with retesting can we finally know the facts about the extent of any potential contamination and begin cleanup, if needed, right away.
- This urgency must be balanced with the need for a careful and transparent review of the workplan by both the community and the regulatory agencies to make sure we are moving forward responsibly and efficiently to protect public health.